



# MEDIA ADVISORY

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **FEDERAL OFFICIALS PRAISE TENNESSEE'S CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT DIVISION**

*ONE MILLION DOLLARS IN CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS SENT TO TENNESSEE CHILDREN DAILY*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. -- The Tennessee Department of Human Services is helping thousands of children receive the support they need, but more importantly, the support they are owed. In recent years, the state has experienced double digit increases in child support collections. Collections climbed to an all-time high of \$384 million in 2003--that's a 13% increase over the previous year. Much of the increase in collections can be attributed to the Tennessee Child Support Enforcement System, or TCSES.

TCSES was recently granted full certification by the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). TCSES is the single statewide computer system for case and financial management of all Title IV-D (child support) cases.

"This is a milestone for the Department and for Tennessee's children," said Human Services Commissioner Virginia T. Lodge. "This certification is crucial in avoiding substantial fines and penalties. TCSES also helps thousands of children receive much needed support in a timely and efficient manner."

The HHS Commissioner for the Office of Child Support Enforcement, Dr. Sherri Z. Heller, was in Nashville today, honoring Human Services staff and partners for their work on TCSES. Dr. Heller offered appreciation for the work being done on behalf of children.

"It is true that we have a lot of clients who are angry with us," said Dr. Heller. "Many people don't want to be found or are hiding their assets. But families are counting on us, and the public is reassured about government because of what we do in child support."

Dr. Heller praised the dedication of the department's staff and partner in the TCSES system, Accenture.

TCSES contains all of Tennessee's demographic, support order and payment data. It also distributes all of the Title IV-D collections in accordance with state laws and federal regulations. TCSES locates non-custodial parents, monitors compliance with orders and initiates action to enforce child support obligations, thereby minimizing the need for worker intervention. It allows child support workers to get more cases to court, establish more orders and attach more wages.

For more information on Tennessee's Child Support Enforcement Division, visit the DHS website at:

<http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/childsupport.htm>

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